789 Death, of course, is an important phase of human life, but business failure is also a critical or turning point. The Lolo rely upon agricultural products for their principal food; whenever drought occurs to threaten the crops, the Lolo will undertake a rain-praying ceremony in order to control the weather through magic. To pray for rain, they always use a white sheep or a white chicken to propitiate the mountain spirit. The pi-mu performs magic by scattering chicken blood and feathers in different places so that it will look like rain and snow. This is also [102] imitative magic. The recognition of [825] white birds and animals as something sacred and mysterious is a universal phenomenon in primitive society. For example, the white horse in Syria and Central Asia, and the white ox, white deer, and white fox among the American Indians are all considered supernatural. When the pi-mu performs, the villagers would help by yelling and making a loud noise. Some of them would shoot a gun to shock the mountain spirit, while the others would cry madly to scare away the ghosts and evil spirits. They run around and bestir themselves to the utmost to enable the rain to fall down from the precipices and to help accomplish the purpose of magic.

●784 The Lolo have many kinds of interdiction which is called "taboo" in the English language. According to Frazer's interpretation, it is a negative magic. For instance, people are forbidden to step over the kitchen stove because it will offend the god of fire, the basic reason being that fire can harm human life; it is forbidden to saddle a horse inside the house because this is connected with the ritual for sending off the dead; a person going on a trip is not allowed to sweep the ground before leaving the house lest the evil spirits follow him and cause him trouble on the road. Interdictions like these are too many to be enumerated. Whereas positive magic is what ought to be done to achieve a certain goal, negative magic is what should not be done to avoid misfortune. Therefore, interdiction is only an extension of magic.

695 The Lolo also practice the ordeal, which is another form of magic, to determine a person's guilt. For instance, groping for an egg is used for trying a suspect. This method calls for the pi-mu to first recite the scripture, then boil a large pan of water, and throw the egg in it. The suspect is ordered to put his hand in the boiling water to pick up the egg. If his hand is not scalded, he is proved innocent. The method of chewing rice in the mouth is another kind of ordeal. After the pi-mu has recited the scripture, the suspect is asked to put a small pinch of red or white rice into the mouth and to spit it out after